

REMARKS

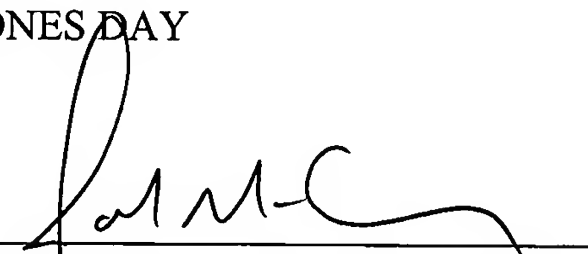
This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on August 11, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,211,649 ("the Matsuda reference.")

Along with this Office Action Response, Applicants have filed a Declaration Under CFR § 1.131 to establish invention of the subject matter of claims 1-25 prior to March 17, 2000, the prior art date of the Matsuda reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Applicants therefore submit that the rejections of claim 1-25 under the Matsuda reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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